

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 L-03 MC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /061 W

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R 160505Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4698

NOFORN

DEF FOR OSD/ISA AND DSAA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED THIRD PARTY TRANSFER AGREEMENT ON MAP TRAINING

REF: STATE 196640 (R 020553Z AUG 76)

1. WE WISH TO BRING TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION WHAT WE BELIEVE WILL BE THE EFFECT ON U.S.-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS IF WE OFFICIALLY INFORM THE GOM THAT WE WILL NOT CONTINUE OUR SMALL MAP PROGRAM (US 300,000 DOLLARS ANNUALLY) OF CONUS TRAINING FOR MALAYSIAN DEFENSE FORCES PERSONNEL UNLESS THE THIRD PARTY TRANSFER AGREEMENT SUGGESTED IN PARA 7B OF REFTTEL IS CONCLUDED. AS DEPT IS AWARE, MALAYSIA IS A PROFESSEDLY NONALIGNED COUNTRY WHICH TRIES TO MAINTAIN A POSITION OF PUBLIC EQUIDISTANCE BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS, ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY FAVORING THE U.S. AND THE WESTERN POWERS OVER RUSSIA AND CHINA. NONALIGNMENT HAS BEEN FAVORED BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY FOR WELL KNOWN REASONS OF GEOPOLITICS (E.G., PARA 6 OF K.L. 4346), BUT THERE ARE ALSO
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VOCAL, ANTI-COLONIAL, NATIONALISTIC GROUPS BOTH IN THE

GOVERNMENT AND IN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WHICH MUST BE PLACATED. THUS, IN HIS MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER LAST MARCH, PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN EXPRESSED MALAYSIAN SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT REMARKED THAT HE DID NOT WANT DIRECT MILITARY AID BECAUSE EVEN "ONE PLATOON OF U.S. MARINE" WOULD CREATE SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. SIMILARLY, AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A WRITTEN RIGHT OF U.S. VETO ON THE APPLICATION OF USG-FINANCED TRAINING BY MALAYSIAN DEFENSE FORCES PERSONNEL WOULD BE CONSIDERED A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THIS COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY WHICH COULD OPEN THE GOM TO STRONG CRITICISM AT HOME AND AMONG THE THIRD WORLD NATIONS WITH WHICH IT WANTS TO IDENTIFY. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOM WOULD REJECT A REQUEST FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT EVEN IF IT MEANT LOSS OF THE U.S. MAPT PROGRAM. FURTHERMORE, REACTION TO WHAT COULD ONLY BE VIEWED AS AN UNFRIENDLY GESTURE IS LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS IN OTHE AREAS.

2. WE DO NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND, IN ANY EVENT, WHY THE CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF MATERIEL SHOULD APPLY IN THE CASE OF MAP TRAINING FOR MALAYSIA SINCE, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING UNDER USG-FINANCING IS MOSTLY FOR GENERALIZED CAREER TRAINING COURSES FROM WHICH NOTHING BUT BOOKS ARE BROUGHT BACK TO MALAYSIA IN ADDITION TO CEREBRALLY IMPLANTED EXPERTISE. (IT DOES NOT SEEM REALISTIC TO TRYMY LIMIT THE TRANSFER OR APPLICATION OF GENERALIZED EXPERTISE BY A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.) TRAINING UNDER FMS CREDIT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS NOT SUBJECT TO THIRD PARTY LIMITATION, GENERALLY APPLIES TO SPECIFIC ARMS AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND COULD INVOLVE TRANSFER OF TRAINING GEAR FROM CONUS TO MALAYSIA.

3. ACTION: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT NO ATTEMPT BE MADE TO CONCLUDE A BLANKET THIRD PARTY TRANSFER AGREEMENT ON MAP TRAINING WITH GOM AS PROPOSED REFTTEL. INSTEAD WE PROPOSE THAT SIDE LETTERS BE EXCHANGED FOR ANY SPECIFIC COURSE WHICH COULD REALISTICALLY BE RESTRICTED AND WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE SPECIFIC TRAINING AIDS OR TECHNOLOGY THAT WE DO NOT WANT TRANSFERRED TO THIRD COUNTRIES. (THIS IS A COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE.)
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UNDERHILL

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